



Native Hawaiian Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/27/2011

Start Time: 9:00

End Time: 4:00

Meeting Method: In person, Hawaii Kai sanctuary conference room

Attendance:

Working Group Member Attendees: Kehau Watson (Chair), Sharon Pomroy (Vice-Chair), Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Everett Ohta, Walter Ritte, Marnie Meyer, Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, „Aulani Wilhelm

Guests: Julie Leialoha, Brooks Takenaka

Other Staff present (Honua Consulting): Jamaica Osorio, Sean Ida

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Staff present: Kanani Frazier, Brenda Asuncion, Allen Tom, Malia Chow, Hans Van Tilburg

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Malia Chow offers context for the meeting by reviewing the process that led to the working group's formation in December 2010.

Allen Tom provides overview of sanctuary history, highlighting the original designation language which provides for facilitation of Native Hawaiian rights.

Kehau Watson notes that there is potential to make the working group a permanent standing committee of the sanctuary advisory council. There is discussion that if this occurs, other committees should maintain good communication with a newly formed Native Hawaiian subcommittee. There is clarification about the current relationships between subcommittees: (1) subcommittees can work together on specific issues, and (2) there is communication through executive committee calls.

Brenda Asuncion reviews binder materials which provide background on management plan review activities (MPR timeline and diagram of topical issues).

Kehau Watson briefly introduces other binder contents

- Supporting documents (e.g., document from Molokai Access and Gathering Management working group), Additional documents (e.g., Charter of Intergovernmental Policy Council from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary)



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Working Group members begin to discuss contents of the document with the draft management recommendations

- Title (Na Kai Ewalu): traditional name for 8 seas of Hawai'i.
 - There is concern that there is not enough intention in the name yet, since the contents and purpose of the rest of the document is not solidified
 - ACTION: Group suggests gathering resources to look at the background information, context, and historic references to “Na Kai Ewalu”, before determining the appropriateness of the phrase. Group also suggests that a larger body of people be consulted to review this option.
- ACTION: add table of contents
- Goals and Objectives
 - It is noted that “Native Hawaiian” should be used in place of “indigenous peoples” throughout the document, and that in general, working group members support using stronger language
 - An additional objective was suggested: adopt traditional management principles of sustainability, integration, community advice and consent, holistic adaptive ecological engineering
- Background
 - History of HIHWNMS should be reduced to 1 paragraph. This shortened version could be a consistent piece to use in future documents
- Native Hawaiian Working Group
 - ACTION: add information about working group logistics and overview of meetings-to-date, membership, etc.
- Critical Hawaiian Issues: working group members each identified an issue that is most important to them. These were written out on a whiteboard:
 - Haloa (priority of natural resources)
 - submerged cultural heritage
 - role of Native Hawaiians in sanctuary management
 - over-regulation
 - understanding and defining regulations (bureaucracy vs. traditional governance by practice and tradition)
 - Native Hawaiian programs to fund for education and research (e.g., provide longer view, impacts on traditional practice)
 - streams that need cleaning
 - fresh water
 - holistic efforts (integrating mauka-makai connections)
 - submerged mining (in Hawaii as well as elsewhere)



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- alternative energy
- climate change on cultural resources and subsistence resources
- forum for community involvement
- community-based economic plans
- pathways and roles for Native Hawaiian engagement in management
- respect mana, o that people have
- Sanctuary Priority Areas: Working group members discussed the following priority areas (which are being addressed by other working groups), and started to identify relationships with other Native Hawaiian issues
 - Climate Change: fishpond research (e.g., sea level rise, ocean acidification)
 - Water Quality: fresh water is necessary for fishponds (i.e., access to streams)
 - Maka, ala Ka, aumoana will consider points of concern for this topic
 - Ecosystem Protections: holistic thinking and adaptive ecosystem engineering. The group discusses the need to be clear in why ecosystem-based management will be better.
 - Option is offered to use the term “Native Hawaiian traditional perspective” - based (rather than ecosystem-based). It is noted that there is a need for a Hawaiian description that provides the basis for this practice (Sol Kaho’ohalahala notes that he has been pursuing this information).
 - Enforcement: Native Hawaiian access is the main concern.
 - There is discussion of existing programs (Makai Watch) which are moving community engagement towards community authority / enforcement.
 - Working group members discuss the meaning of co-management for communities, and how to empower people to manage their own resources.
 - It is highlighted that coastal communities need to be informed that they indeed have kuleana so they don’t step back from it
 - Participants note the value of long-term education
 - Humpback Whale Protections: the Humpback Whale Protections working group is having a workshop; perhaps the Native Hawaiian Working Group could be represented at the workshop. Sharon Pomroy notes that she is able to attend.

*****Working Lunch*****

Discussion during lunch includes an overview of the conversation with the Robinson family regarding potential protections for Niihau. Working group members emphasize that the sanctuary should have some input on the conditions of future meetings in order to get input from the residents of the island. They agree that when it is appropriate, they can be included in discussions and contribute advice and support.



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Lunch discussion also highlights the potential role of the sanctuary as an advocate for communities and their plans. When plans and process have gotten stuck, the sanctuary can consider how to kako'o.

After lunch, discussion returns to the relationships with other priority areas being considered by other working groups.

- Maritime Heritage: fishponds in the sanctuary (including submerged fishponds). An idea is introduced to have a joint workshop with the Maritime Heritage working group to discuss cultural resources (including intangible ones).
 - Hans Van Tilburg notes that the term “maritime” usually refers to seafaring and nautical. He informs the group that the Maritime Heritage group is emphasizing the education and enforcement of standing laws (to prevent the removal of artifacts), as well as the inventory of resources.
- Ocean Literacy: Maka,ala Ka,aumoana will consider points of concern for this topic
- Offshore Development: Sol Kaho,,ohalahala and Walter Ritte participate on this working group, so they will identify points of concern for this topic.
- Working Group Priorities: Working group members discussed the following draft priority topics which are specific to the working group (as opposed to being addressed by another working group)
 - Access: It is noted that the concept of access can be more metaphorical in terms of access to traditional concepts and practices.
 - Also, with specific regard to spatial access, need the term “gathering” included in order to clarify the purpose of access
 - Sovereignty: It is noted that this topic can be framed in terms of personal sovereignty, rather than political sovereignty.
 - Environmental degradation: The idea is mentioned that this concept can be written from the perspective of Haloa and the priority of natural resources
 - With regard to water issues, working group members note that in addition to stream issues, the larger concept of land use management could be used to discuss runoff
 - Loss of knowledge: Working group members discuss the value of one-on-one interviews with kupuna, and support the continuation of activities such as this
 - Members highlight the large body of knowledge already available, but note that this isn't generally acknowledged in a robust way, although the practices and knowledge shouldn't be regarded as “old” because they're pertinent and applicable today.
 - It is noted that the working group can work with the Papahānaumokuākea cultural working group for research initiatives and information accessibility



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- Submerged / ceded lands: Malia Chow and Allen Tom note that the sanctuary doesn't intend to take over ceded lands, and that it would always just work with whoever owns these lands.
- Pa'a kai salt ponds: There is clarification that any consideration of supporting salt ponds would have to include protection of the surrounding lands.
- Lay gill nets: There is agreement that the discussion of gill nets in these management recommendations should be very specific about topic (e.g., rather than ban the use, identify appropriate and inappropriate use and behavior) and area (e.g., it would be inappropriate to apply recommendations state-wide).

Malia Chow asks the working group for help in defining "Native Hawaiian gathering rights", as worded in the HIIW designation Act. ACTION: designation language will be provided to working group.

- Working group members note the availability of the Governor's subsistence task force report on gathering, access, and use.

Working group members consider how to include communities which don't have a process started already (i.e., the sanctuary doesn't have a way of becoming aware of their efforts). Members can help to develop criteria for identifying and prioritizing communities to pursue actions with. Questions to consider include (1) which examples of "almost-ready" communities exist within the sanctuary boundaries, and (2) what motives or ideas are there for opportunities to work with communities outside the sanctuary boundaries

Brooks Takenaka provides an overview of his background, and his perspective through his work at the United Fishing Agency. There is agreement that when there are many diverse interests, it is often difficult to move forward, but there is also a general sentiment that early engagement with the fishing community would be beneficial for the Native Hawaiian working group. There is general discussion about the economic context for local fisheries (e.g., export proportions, prices, local demand). Working group members highlight the fact that the sanctuary can support and advocate for good fishing stewardship throughout the state, and that the working group has considerable input in the sanctuary's management process.

Next meeting: To be determined (approx. September)